Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. May 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4532.)

F.O.
424

PART LX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

113

April 1881.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. May 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LX.

No. 1.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 225.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Brophy, reporting that no portion of the sum of 1,200*l.* recommended by the Aidos Commission for distribution amongst the plundered Turkish villages has yet been given.

I have addressed a despatch to Captain Jones instructing him to make inquiries into the matter.

With regard to that part of Mr. Brophy's despatch which refers to the persons blamed by the Commission, Mr. Stephen informs me that it is correct that Dr. Yankoloff, who is a physician by profession, has been appointed municipal doctor for the town of Philippopoli, but that the Roumelian Government are not responsible for his appointment last October to the post of Vice-President of the Permanent Committee, that being an elective office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Bourgas, March* 9, 1881.

WITH regard to the proceedings of the Commission sent from Philippopoli in June 1880 to examine into the cases of wholesale incendiarism, pillage, &c., of Turkish villages in the district of Achialo-Aidos, I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice that of the very modest sum (about 1,200*l.*) recommended by the Commission to be distributed amongst the plundered villages not a penny has yet been given, nor have the Departmental authorities any reason to suppose that there is any intention to pay it.

As far as concerns the persons blamed by the Commission, Dr. Yankoloff, then Prefect of Bourgas, sent in his resignation, and now occupies a higher and more lucrative official post at Philippopoli; the Greek Bailli of Achialo was dismissed, and a Bulgarian appointed in his place; three or four Bulgarians of Altchakdere were tried for the murder of three Turks and were acquitted. The other persons and groups of persons accused by the Commission have been left unmolested, none of them having even been censured, much less arrested or dismissed from their respective services. The crops of the villages of Karamandja, whose fields are in Bulgaria, whilst their village is (or, rather, was) in Eastern Roumelia, were reaped and carried off by the Bulgarians of Soudjoulou, in the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 2.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 240.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 175 of the 8th instant, inclosing copy of a note I had addressed to the Porte in regard to numerous cases of murdered British subjects for which no adequate redress had been obtained, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of the reply I have received from Assim Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 22 *Mars*, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 1er de ce mois, relativement à l'assassinat commis à Tripoli d'Afrique sur la personne du sujet Anglais, Preuben Arbib, et à quelques autres actes analogues.

Je n'a pas manqué de saisir à nouveau les autorités compétentes des différents cas signalés dans cette note. En attendant leur réponse, je puis affirmer dès à présent à votre Excellence que les autorités Impériales, loin d'apporter la moindre négligence à l'exécution de leur mandat, ont agi, au contrare, avec vigilance. Il est évident qu'elles ne sauraient être reprises si elles ont circonscrit leur action dans les limites du respect dû à l'indépendance de la justice.

En soumettant ces considérations à l'appréciation éclairée de votre Excellence, j'aime à espérer que dans ses sentiments d'équité elle voudra bien en reconnaître toute la justice.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 3.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

E

(No. 241. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 199, inclosing copies of a series of despatches from Captain Sale, and explaining to me that officer's suggestions as to the future proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

The subject of the disputed boundary, to the north of Lake Scutari, is one which the Ambassadors have been very reluctant to resume. It was found very difficult to come to an agreement, and when the question was left in abeyance last year several very critical matters remained unsolved. Moreover, the time and attention of the Ambassadors here have been so entirely absorbed for the last few weeks by the negotiations on the Greek Frontier question, that it has been difficult to obtain their consideration for the other numerous difficult questions, which have also the strongest claims on their attention, and which I have from time to time been anxious to urge upon them. To-day, however, as the line of frontier between Turkey and Greece to be recommended to the Governments has been agreed upon, I took the opportunity of consulting with the Russian Ambassador on the subject of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, and placed in his hands the map which accompanied your Lordship's despatch, as well as extracts from Captain Sale's explanatory Memorandum, in order that he might be enabled to form an opinion as to the views of the British Commissioner on the question. I have told my other colleagues that I have instructions from your Lordship on the subject, and that it will be necessary for them to take the matter into consideration.

I think that it would be premature for Captain Sale to come to Constantinople at present, even if it should ultimately be thought expedient for him to do so, as it will be probably necessary for all my colleagues to consult their Governments, and some time will

therefore elapse before negotiations can be opened with the Porte on the subject in the event of the other Mediating Powers being ready to join in taking the necessary steps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 4.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

E

(No. 23.)

Sophia, March 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which General Ehrnrooth has addressed to the foreign Representatives at Sophia calling attention to the danger to public security which arises from the presence of foreign vagabonds in Bulgaria.

His Excellency points out that every State has the right of expelling indigent persons whose presence may be dangerous to public tranquillity, but that in the case of Bulgaria the Capitulations make it necessary for the Bulgarian Government to obtain the co-operation of the foreign Representatives at Sophia; and he therefore suggests a mode of proceeding which, in his opinion, would maintain the guarantees due to foreign subjects, and, at the same time, would enable the Bulgarian Government to rid the country of dangerous persons.

His Excellency's proposal is that in any case of expulsion the Bulgarian authorities should make an application to the nearest Consular officer. If the Consular officer should refuse this application he should inform the Diplomatic Agent at Sophia of the reasons of his refusal, the Bulgarian authorities at the same time furnishing the Minister of the Interior with their reasons for making the application, and the case should be decided at Sophia.

I have the honour to request your Lordship to furnish me with instructions as to the answer which I am to return to General Ehrnrooth's note.

It is not likely that any British subjects will be affected by the proposed arrangement, as I am not aware of any English of the class in question being found in Bulgaria. The persons to whom it will apply are, for the most part, subjects of Austria-Hungary, Italy, Roumania, and Greece.

I understand that all my colleagues have requested their respective Governments to furnish them with instructions on this subject, but that, as General Ehrnrooth's proposal appears to be a reasonable one, they would be prepared to meet his wishes in any case that might arise before their instructions reach them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 4.

General Ehrnrooth to Mr. Lascelles.

Sophia, le 19 *Mars*, 1881.

M. l'Agent,

LE Gouvernement Princier a dû s'occuper à plusieurs reprises des dangers que font courir à la sécurité publique les nombreux désœuvrés et vagabonds, sujets étrangers, qui sont dans la Principauté, et cela particulièrement après avoir reçu des Préfets de Sophia et de Roustchouk des rapports assez inquiétants.

Tout pays a le droit d'expulser les gens sans ressources dont la présence peut être préjudiciable à la tranquillité publique et qui sont soupçonnés de prendre part à des vols, à des crimes, ou d'exercer des métiers non avouables.

Mais les Capitulations obligent le Gouvernement Princier à s'assurer du concours des Représentants étrangers à Sophia.

Un grand nombre d'individus nous sont signalés comme criminels et voleurs, mais pour se soustraire à la police et cacher leurs méfaits ils entrent comme domestiques sans appointements dans des hôtels, cabarets et même dans des maisons publiques, et lorsqu'on leur demande des garants ils présentent leurs maitres qui sont la plupart du temps leurs complices.

Plusieurs de ses vagabonds ont été trouvés porteurs de passeports étrangers, quelquefois même de deux et de trois.

MM. les Agents Diplomatiques et Consuls-Généraux accrédités auprès du Gouvernement Princier sont toujours animés de sentiments si bienveillants pour lui faciliter sa tâche,

que nous ne doutons pas qu'ils adhéreront par esprit de justice et d'équité à la demande que nous leur adressons.

Les autorités Bulgares ne peuvent pas expulser les sujets étrangers sans le consentement de leurs Consuls. Je viens donc vous demander votre adhésion du mode de vivre suivant, que tout en respectant les garanties dûes aux sujets étrangers nous permettrait de débarrasser le pays d'individus dangereux.

Ce mode de vivre consisterait en ce que les autorités Bulgares s'adresseraient aux Consuls à Sophia et à leurs Agents à Roustchouk-Varna et dans toutes les localités où il s'en trouve pour toute demande d'expulsion.

Lorsque les Agents Consulaires croiraient devoir refuser la demande des autorités Bulgares, ils devraient immédiatement informer leurs Chefs à Sophia des motifs sur lesquels ils basent leurs refus, et les Préfets donneraient communication au Ministère de l'Intérieur des motifs qui les obligent à demander l'expulsion, de telle sorte qu'en cas de désaccord, pour raccourcir les délais, c'est à Sophia qu'il serait statué.

J'espère, M. l'Agent, que vous voudrez bien accueillir favorablement la demande que je vous adresse, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) C. EHRNROOTH.

No. 5.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord, *Scutari, March* 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me to Mr. Goschen on a petition from Scutari, said to have been tampered with by some of the Mussulman Albanians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Scutari, March* 23, 1881.

I HAVE received a confidential request from the heads of the Roman Catholic community of Scutari to bring under your Excellency's notice the following incidents:—

About a fortnight ago all the principal Mahommedan and Christian inhabitants of this place signed a petition, which they requested the Vali to forward to the Porte, praying for the removal of the prohibition on the exportation of grain from the province, and for a part payment of the debts owed by the Government in the Scutari Bazaar, in order that the prevailing distress might be relieved through the introduction of some money into the country.

The Christians have now ascertained, much to their surprise, that this petition, which was referred in due form by the Vali to the Administrative and Municipal Councils of the vilayet, has been tampered with by the Mahommedan members of those Councils. It is asserted that an entirely new petition was drawn up by them, of the contents of which the Christians are completely ignorant, and that the signatures to the first petition have been cut off and gummed on to the new one.

A deputation of Roman Catholic gentlemen called on Hadji Osman Pasha, and brought the above facts to his knowledge. His Excellency expressed ignorance of the alleged change, and said he had not observed that the petition contained anything but what was true and proper. As he was, however, unable to furnish the deputation with a copy of the petition, which his Excellency said had already been forwarded to Constantinople, they requested him to telegraph to the Porte that the Roman Catholic community, in its present ignorance, repudiated the contents of the petition.

My informants are afraid that their Mahommedan fellow-countrymen may have supplied the Porte with a document calculated to lead it to take measures to deprive the North Albanian Roman Catholic mountain tribes of their existing privileges, and to give the idea that the Christian inhabitants of Scutari are opposed to the introduction of administrative reforms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 6.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord, *Corfu, March* 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two despatches just received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura:—

1. Relative to the preparations in course at Santa Maura and its vicinity.
2. Respecting brigandage on the Turco-Greek frontier.

With regard to No. 1, Mr. Onofrio tells me, in another letter, that up to the 27th instant no land transport, or commissariat, or ambulance services had been organized, or even discussed, as far as he could learn. On my speaking to one of the authorities here on the subject, he replied that these matters would be taken in hand if the negotiations at Constantinople fail.

With regard to No. 2, there is no doubt but that there are in Epirus a considerable number of the filibusters who had been collected by the "Patriotic Committees" in 1877-78, and who, ever since the failure of the so-called insurrection of Epirus in 1878, have been a thorn in the side of the Turkish administration in Epirus, but, unfortunately, chiefly amongst the defenceless Christian districts of Zagora and others, where they are, I believe, still pursuing their abominable vocation, to the terror of the above districts.

Many Greek politicians, I believe, consider that these are the best means of convincing Europe that the Turks are powerless and incapable of maintaining order in the adjoining provinces; but at the same time it is questionable whether the Rayahs of Turkey prefer this system to Turkish misrule.

From what I hear from well-informed persons, there appears to be no doubt that, in the event of Epirus not being included within the new frontier, and also of Europe coercing Greece to take what may be offered to her, that the Greeks will have recourse to the old system of sending revolutionary bands across the border, and leaving nothing undone to stir up disturbances in Epirus.

There are politicians here who seem to think that there may be a league chiefly of the small Slav countries, such as Servia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, &c., to rise against Turkey on a signal from Greece, and to bring on a general conflagration; but these politicians also ask themselves if Greece would be promoting their own cause by thus co-operating with the Slavs in the destruction of Turkey in Europe; they also ask whether the Slavs do not really wish to make a catspaw of Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Santa Maura, March* 26, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have now the honour to report to you that the contemplated camp, therein alluded to, will be formed at Arapis, the Plain of Catuna, in this island, having been considered to be a long way off from the frontier.

2. Authentic information has been received here from Zanerda to the effect that the "Bobolina" landed there last week four heavy Armstrong guns, one (not two) steam-launch (to be fitted out as torpedo-boat, for service in the Gulf of Arta), a number of torpedoes, and other war material, all of which were removed this week to Vouitza, whither a quantity of steam coals was also sent round by sea from this fort. The "Bobolina" landed also 72 cases of "Gras" rifles and 2,000 cases of ammunition at Astakos, destined for Carvassarà.

3. It is also proposed to fortify Vuvalà, one of the Greek inlets in the Gulf of Arta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FR. ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, March 27, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that intelligence reached this place from Prevesa to the effect that a band of brigands, composed of six Moslems and four Christians, made its appearance a few days ago near Mikalitzi, a village some three hours distant from Prevesa, and captured and carried off two Vlach shepherds, for whose ransom a large sum is demanded.

2. Intelligence from Prevesa of yesterday's date also brings that considerable quantity of war material and provisions were landed there last week, and that a new battery is being constructed on the coast to the north-west of Fort Pandokrátora.

A Turkish iron-clad, which cast anchor off that port last week, remains still there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FR. ONOFRIO.

P.S.—Since writing the above, intelligence has been received here that in consequence of the energetic steps taken by Kiasim Bey, the Governor of Prevesa, the two captives have been released without ransom, and that the brigands are being pursued.

F. O.

No. 7.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

E

(No. 168. Confidential.)

Vienna, March 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND a rumour to have reached the Austrian Government, that in East Roumelia the conviction is gaining ground that the province is better off under the existing Statute than would be the case if it were joined to Bulgaria, and that the desire for annexation had to a great extent disappeared, while on the other hand a new project is entertained.

This consists in a proposal to induce the Porte, in consideration for a large tribute to be paid to it, to consent to extend the Organic Statute of East Roumelia to Macedonia, including the Vilayets of Salonica and Uscup.

I am told confidentially that Baron Haymerle, on being asked by one of my colleagues if he had heard anything of this scheme, replied that he had, and that it would be quite at variance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

It cannot, I think, be doubted that it would be vehemently objected to by the Austro-Hungarian Government as a step towards the creation of the large Bulgaria which they so greatly dread, and as a fatal obstacle to the ultimate extension of the Greek Kingdom, which they look upon as being destined at some future day to replace the Turks in the southern provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 8.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 5.)

Salonica, April 4, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)

FOUR battalions of infantry arrived here yesterday and to-day from Constantinople, and have been dispatched by special train to Uscup. Albanian League of Prisrend is prepared to resist advance of Turkish troops, and it is rumoured that it has disarmed Turkish garrison there, composed of two battalions.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 9.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received April 5.)

Smyrna, April 4, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)

YESTERDAY violent earthquake destroyed greater part of Chio town with many villages. Great loss of life reported. Doctors and medicines urgently demanded. Details wanting.

No. 10.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6.)

Salonica, March 26, 1881.

(No. 41.)

My Lord,

ON the 24th instant I had the honour to send a telegram to your Lordship, as well as one to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the energetic action of the Turkish military authorities at Uscup towards the leading members of the Albanian League in that place.

I find on further information that the number of those apprehended and brought to Salonica is eleven instead of seven, as stated in my telegram; their names are as follows:—

Tashar Bey, President of the Uscup League.
Hadji Musta Bey.
Abdulrahman Bey.
Munir Bey.
Javit Bey.
Sheikh Ali Effendi.
Baku Effendi.
Joussouff Effendi.
Abdul Aga.
The Mudir of the village of Rahtza.
And a Sheikh of the village of Vertikitza.

It appears that Ibrahim Pasha, the Commander of the troops at Uscup, has acted with great tact and energy in this affair. He effected the capture of the Leaguers in the following manner:—

On Sunday last, the 20th instant, after his garrison of six battalions had been reinforced by another battalion sent by special train from Salonica, he summoned the Chiefs to appear at the konak, but instead of doing so they sent some thirty armed followers in their stead, who asked Ibrahim Pasha to defer the answer he required of the Chiefs until Wednesday, the 23rd.

The reply Ibrahim Pasha was seeking to obtain from the Chiefs was to the effect that they should retire quietly from all opposition to the Sultan's Government, and no longer interfere in the provincial administration.

This delay of three days demanded by the Chiefs was merely for the purpose of gaining time to communicate with the League of Prisrend.

Ibrahim Pasha told them plainly that he saw through their design, but as he was anxious to avoid any disturbances he would accede to their demand.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, he occupied all the salient points of the town, and also informed the armed followers of the League (some 600 in number from the surrounding villages) that if any of them were found in the town on Wednesday morning they would be instantly shot.

This warning had the desired effect, for that very night they all disappeared.

Next day, Wednesday, his Excellency again summoned the Chiefs, who at first refused to appear, on the plea of their not having received a definite answer from Prisrend, but subsequently they presented themselves at the konak, in front of which two battalions of troops were drawn up under pretext of drill. Immediately on the entry of the Chiefs into the konak the place was surrounded by these two battalions, the arrest was effected, and the prisoners sent off to the station escorted by the troops, where a special train was already in waiting to bring them to Salonica.

The above account is confirmed by several letters which have been received here from Uscup, and, as I reported in my telegram, the authority of the Sultan has been re-established without bloodshed or disturbance of any kind, and Ibrahim Pasha is now making arrange-

ments to suppress the League at Pristina; but in order that the movement should be entirely crushed it will be necessary that he should march to Prisrend, the head-quarters of the League in the Vilayets of Cossova and Monastir.

Here at Salonica public opinion generally approves of this action of the Government, and takes it as a favourable omen towards the pacific solution of the pending Greco-Turkish Frontier question.

Several Greeks and Turks have remarked to me that the Government would hardly have run the risk of further complicating the situation in Northern Albania unless it had been certain that this question would be pacifically settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 11.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March 26, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a very serious act of brigandage was perpetrated about a fortnight ago in the district of Kastoria, in the Vilayet of Monastir.

The Greek brigand chief Davelli, at the head of his gang composed of about forty individuals, waylaid and captured a caravan of no less than 100 persons, mostly small traders, returning from a fair in the vicinity, and, after plundering, released them with the exception of ten, whom he carried off to the mountains; of the ten one was a Turk, two were Christians, and seven Jews. Three Turks and one Christian who attempted to escape were at once shot down.

Davelli, in order to insure an easy capture, had taken the precaution to cut the telegraph wires between Anaselitza, Kastoria, and Monastir.

In the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama tranquillity continues to prevail; so also in the district of Cassandra, although bands have been seen in the neighbourhood of the villages.

In the district of Catterina, however, little change has taken place in the state of affairs, and the brigands have recently carried off some hostages and committed their usual depredations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 12.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, April 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 6 Avril, 1881.*

PLUSIEURS Musulmans de Kustendil s'adressent à la Sublime Porte pour se plaindre qu'une Commission présidée par M. Zancoff, arrivée dernièrement en cette ville, a déclaré à tous les villageois Chrétiens qui cultivent des terres appartenant aux Musulmans qu'ils ont le droit de continuer à travailler ces terres et de disposer de leurs revenus sans reconnaître propriétaire Musulman.

La Commission conteste aux propriétaires Musulmans le droit de posséder même un pouce de terrain en Bulgarie. Elle va jusqu'à obliger ceux qui ont vendu, il y a deux ans, leurs propriétés, à restituer le prix de la vente.

Ces dispositions, si contraires aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, sont de nature à ruiner complètement les propriétaires Musulmans en Bulgarie. Je vous prie d'y attirer l'attention la plus sérieuse de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et de l'amener à inviter son Agent à Sophia à faire au Gouvernement Bulgare des représentations énergiques en vue d'obtenir la cessation d'un si regrettable état de choses.

No. 13.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March 28, 1881.*

WITH a view to illustrate the manner in which the Albanian League of Prisrend sets at defiance not only the local authorities, but also the Sultan's Ministers, I inclose translated copies of four telegrams sent by the League to Uscup, in reference to the removal to Constantinople of Hadji Bey, the Binbashi (Major) of the police of that town.

It appears that the Porte having been informed that this police officer (a native Albanian) had secretly joined the League, ordered his arrest and deportation.

The League of Prisrend, hearing of this, took the active measures set forth in their telegrams, and, I believe, were successful in their object, for I hear that Hadji Bey is now safe at Prisrend.

I have just received intelligence that the military authorities of Uscup have arrested forty more Albanians concerned with the League.

I also hear that Yashar Bey and his colleagues, who were recently deported to this place, are very severely treated by the local military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Translation of four Telegrams sent by the Albanian League of Prisrend, relative to the Arrest and Deportation of Hadji Bey, Major of Police of Uscup.

(No. 1.)—*Au Mutessarif d'Uscup.*

Prisrend, le 17 Mars, 1881.

APPRENONS que le Binbashi Hadji Bey, Chef de la Police d'Uscup, a été mandé à Constantinople. Gardez-vous de ne pas l'y envoyer, mais envoyez-le directement ici. Si vous l'envoyez à Constantinople la responsabilité qui en découlera retombera sur vous.

(No. 2.)—*Aux Représentants de la Ligue à Uscup.*

Prisrend, le 17 Mars, 1881.

Avons écris aux officiers divisionnaires d'opposer une vive résistance pour sauver et amener Hadji Bey à Prisrend, dans le cas ou il sera forcé de se rendre à Constantinople.

Veuillez prêter main-forte à ces officiers pour sauver le dit Binbashi Hadji Bey.

(No. 3.)—*Aux Officiers Divisionnaires de la Ligue à Uscup.*

Prisrend, le 17 Mars, 1881.

Faites accompagner Hadji Bey d'une escorte suffisante et envoyez-le ici. Si vous rencontrez de résistance pour empêcher son départ, défendez-vous bien par les armes et tâchez de l'envoyer ici sain et sauf. Avons avisés du fait les Représentants de la Ligue à Uscup.

(No. 4.)—*Au Binbachi de la Police d'Uscup.*

Prisrend, le 17 Mars, 1881.

Le fait ayant été communiqué au Mutessarif, aux représentants de la Ligue, et aux officiers divisionnaires, causez avec ces derniers et venez ici.

No. 14.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 7*, 1881, 1 P.M.

DERVISH PASHA arrived here yesterday from Constantinople, and left at midnight for Uskup. He is named Commander of all the Turkish forces in Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, Janina, Cossova, and Province of Thessaly, and invested, it is said, with supreme powers [two groups wrong].

Five additional battalions of Redifs arrived here yesterday in two Government transports from Constantinople and Dardanelles, and were immediately dispatched by special train to Verisovitch, where a strong division is being concentrated to operate against Prisrend. No news from last-named place, but at Uskup Albanians are quiet.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 15.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 7*, 1881, 6 P.M.

DERVISH PASHA has issued a Proclamation appealing to loyalty of Albanians, and cautioning them against participation in insurrectionary movements, which the Sultan is resolved to suppress.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 22.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 8*, 1881.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a telegram from the Porte, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, relative to the proceedings of a Commission at Kustendil, which is said to have contested the right of the Mussulman proprietors to their lands;* and I have to instruct you to inquire and report to me what foundation there is for the statements made in this telegram.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 8*, 1881.

THE British subject, Mr. Henry Suter, was carried off last night with his wife and child (or children) from village of Isvor, in district of Cassandra, by three united bands of brigands, chiefly Greek. Wife and child (or children) not ill-treated, but sent back. Ransom demanded, £ T. 15,000. Suter says that if troops are sent in pursuit he will be killed; that he has no means of payment, and that Turkish Government are responsible, as their troops stationed in the village for his protection were not mounted. I should have gone to Cassandra to attend to the matter personally, but have no one to leave in charge here. I am doing my best to prevent pursuit or any hasty act of authorities. Please move Porte to telegraph to civil and military authorities here not to attack the brigands, but to concert with regard to measures to beken.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

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* No. 12.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 9*, 1881.

YOUR telegram of yesterday received.

Your proceedings with regard to Mr. Suter's capture by brigands are approved.

Following telegram on the subject has been addressed to Mr. Goschen :—

[See No. 19.]

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 258.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 9*, 1881, 7 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with much concern from Mr. Blunt's telegram of yesterday that Mr. Suter, a British subject residing at Isvor, has been carried off by brigands. You will at once address a note in strong terms to the Porte, pointing out that this is the second British resident, within little more than a year's time, who has been carried off, owing to the neglect of the Turkish Government to take proper steps for the suppression of brigandage, and to afford efficient protection to the peaceful inhabitants.

State that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Turkish Government responsible for Mr. Suter's safety, and for the payment of any ransom that it may be necessary to give for his recovery.

(Repeated to Mr. Blunt.)

No. 20.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 1*, 1881.

I LEARN that his Excellency the Governor-General of this province has resolved to enforce the provision of the Organic Statute, Cap. II, par. 82, when the elections for the Provincial Assembly take place in October next, and which runs thus :—

"Les employés administratifs de départements et d'arrondissements nommés par le Gouvernement ne peuvent être élus Membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale pendant la durée de leurs fonctions."

The Governor-General has overlooked, hitherto, the violation of this law, trusting to receive support and assistance from those Members of the Assembly who at the same time held situations under the Government, but in this he has been deceived, for not only have they shown themselves on all occasions his most hostile opponents, but have leagued together to thwart the course of inquiry where the interests of their own body were affected.

The number of Members at present holding their seats in violation of the provisions of the above Statute are 14 in a House composed of altogether 56 Members, but of whom only 36 are elected by popular suffrage. It is, I am informed, his Excellency's intention to compel those who illegally represent a constituency to surrender before the coming Session either their seats or their situations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 21.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 2*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship the following circumstances, which are not without importance in this province at the present time.

The foreign military officers in the service of Eastern Roumelia have endeavoured,

for some time past, to make a formal contract with the Local Government for their term of service, and also to obtain an increase of salary. Both these requests have been strongly supported by the Russian Consul-General on behalf of his countrymen. The Permanent Committee, however, with whom it rests to accept or reject them, has curtly refused to increase the salaries of the foreign officers, and requires in the contract that the applicant whose services are retained shall agree to accept personally the judgment of the Roumelian Tribunals for civil as well as military offences.

The Russian Consul-General strongly opposes this arrangement as far as it affects the civil rights of the Russian officers, and has forbidden them to consent to such terms. On the other hand, the Austrian Consul has counselled the German officers to accept unreservedly the conditions proposed by the local authorities.

Should the latter insist on making their acceptance obligatory, it may lead to the withdrawal of the Russian officers from the military service of the province, and their replacement by Austrians or Germans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 22.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 11.)

E

(No. 44. Confidential.) *Bucharest, April* 4, 1881.

My Lord,

THE Government of the French Republic and that of the Netherlands have instructed their Representatives to congratulate Roumania.

On the 1st instant Count Hoyos received information from Baron Haymerle to the effect that the Imperial Cabinet saw no objection to the adoption of the Royal title by Roumania, and was about to make an official communication to that effect after consultation with other Powers. Subsequently, Count Wesdehlen received similar intelligence from Berlin, but it turned out that neither Germany nor Austria would take any step in this question at Bucharest without the concurrence of Russia.

The desire to reinaugurate a common action of the three Imperial Courts on this occasion will be naturally a subject of much comment, and it is probable that the authorship of this community of action can be traced to Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 23.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 263.) *Constantinople, April* 5, 1881.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 127 of the 24th of last month, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth on the subject of the hardships alleged by Mr. Ogle's correspondent at Volo to be inflicted by the Turkish authorities in refusing to recognize the Hellenic nationality of a certain portion of the Greek inhabitants of the Province of Thessaly.

It is clearly shown by Mr. Longworth that, were the Turks to levy the taxes in the manner advocated by Mr. Ogle's correspondent, it would have for effect simply to relieve one class of Greeks at the expense of another class of Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. Goschen.

Larissa, March 21, 1881.

Sir,

I RECEIVED yesterday your Excellency's despatch of the 6th instant, inclosing copy of an extract from a letter from Mr. Ogle's correspondent at Volo, and directing me to report on its contents.

The statements therein contained had already reached me from apparently the same informant, who, being an invalid confined to her rooms, her susceptible mind had evidently been considerably excited with apprehension by mere Volo town talk on local public affairs.

I must here observe, however unpleasant it may be to me, that political news originating from Volo should rarely, if ever, be relied upon as trustworthy, for the Greek inhabitants of that town, with few exceptions, do not enjoy a reputation for honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality. In fact, their deceitfulness and cunning are proverbial even in the Levant, and their practices on the credulity of foreign travellers and resident strangers are very well known. In a word, their versions of local events are apt to mislead or influence the judgment, for their aim is invariably to magnify into an enormity every act of the ruling class, be it ever so innocent of evil.

The object in levying the military tax on naturalized Greeks is not "to goad" the people "into some premature movement," but to scrape together every available piastre, and the measure was adopted owing to the pecuniary perplexities of the Administration in Thessaly.

To understand the matter clearly, it must be remembered that the Rayah communities have to pay annually a certain fixed sum to Government as military exemption tax, and that the portion falling on each individual is prescribed, not by the authorities, but by an assembly of their own. For some time back, it is said, there has been yearly a small deficit in this revenue, caused by some of the inhabitants having secured for themselves Hellenic protection. On being pressed for the balance, it is moreover declared, the Headmen of the communities pointed out the naturalized Greeks as the defaulters, but the Turkish authorities, in order to be on good terms with the Hellenic Government, abstained from using force on these individuals, and thus the matter remained standing to the present day.

The question of late has been who were to pay these arrears, which have accumulated during the last twelve years to about 3,000*l*. The Rayahs very reasonably refused on the strength of their having given their own share, while the naturalized Greeks also refused on the strength of their holding foreign protection.

At last the Civil Governor, pressed for money, ends the dispute by declining to recognize as Hellenic subjects such of the natives as had obtained certificates of naturalization after 1869, and issued orders accordingly, which were at first misinterpreted, however, by the authorities at Volo, where many abuses occurred, as I reported in my despatch of the 17th ultimo.

The shoemaker alluded to by Mr. Ogle's correspondent is a case in point, but I am told that he and the rest of them who obtained Greek nationality prior to 1869 have by now received back the money they had been made to pay by the authorities of the district.

The Greek Consul at Larissa is complaining that the Civil Governor still refuses to recognize even such as have legally been made Hellenic subjects, and he particularly mentioned to me the case of a tobacco merchant at Volo, named Margariti, who holds a certificate of naturalization from the Mayor of Patras. I spoke to his Excellency about it, who assured me, in answer, that both the certificate and the passport were issued in 1879. I observed, however, that the passport may have been renewed in 1879, as passports only remain valid for six months, and that even the certificate of naturalization may be only a copy of an old one legalized in 1879. Upon this, his Excellency called the Dragoman of the Greek Consulate, asked for the papers, and placed them in my hands. I examined them carefully myself, with the result that all doubts have been raised from my mind of the fact that M. Margariti had been registered as a naturalized Greek subject in the month of August 1879.

If the statement be true that there are some 700 or 800 Greek subjects of this category in the Volo districts, it only serves to show that the Turkish Government should have put a stop to this naturalization process long ago. But the number cannot be so great, although it is unknown, for even my Greek colleague at Volo expressed to me his uncertainty as to how many there are in his jurisdiction.

It is a fact that considerable irritation has been caused by this measure among the Hellenic subjects, but certainly not among the Rayahs, who on the contrary evinced some joy that their hitherto privileged compatriots were made to meet the demand, instead of its being claimed from the community at large.

The deficiency in transport animals for the military service induced the authorities to raise a collection of about 500 from among the inhabitants of Thessaly. It was to be done in the form of a voluntary contribution and not a compulsory requisition, for I myself read the directions sent to the district authorities, which contained strict injunc-

tions, distinctly worded, to the effect, that the poor were not to be asked, and the rich were not to be forced. I do not know of one case in which mules or horses were refused and money demanded instead; while there are many instances where the authorities had rejected cash as a substitute.

It is not at all improbable that in out of the way places the officials may have exercised pressure in this matter. They very likely found it more to the purpose to act on the fears rather than on the magnanimity of the people, and they may have possibly been urged to it by a belief that their abilities as public functionaries will be held in estimation in comparison to the number of transport animals they succeed in collecting for the Sultan's service. But I should state that only one complaint has reached me of force having been used, and this happened in the Olympic village of Rassani. I brought it at once to the knowledge of the Civil Governor, who telegraphed to his subordinate at Derreli, ordering him to desist at once on the pain of forfeiting his post.

That the authorities decided to place 30 per cent. on the taxes is simply absurd, for as they amount to 350,000*l.*, the supposed imposition would be no less a sum than 105,000*l.* The truth is, only 453 mules and horses have been asked for in kind, and at the value of from 5*l.* to 10*l.* each.

In the annexed Table is given the details of the contribution in an abstract form. The measure came to an end about a week ago, with the result that only 173 beasts of burden have been collected, leaving thus 270 short of the number expected, which certainly would not have been the case had the contribution been in reality a forced requisition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

CONTRIBUTION in Mules and Horses raised by the Turkish Authorities among the Inhabitants of Thessaly.

District or Sub-District.	Number of Transport Animals.		Wealth of District estimated by amount of Taxes leviable.
	Demanded.	Obtained.	
			£
Larissa	61	36	80,000
Volo	109	Nil	50,000
Vellestino	10	10	5,000
Armyro	10	8	11,000
Phersala	25	25	30,000
Karditza	60	41	60,000
Tricalla	84	15	60,000
Ellassona	42	12	35,000
Turnovo	16	13	7,000
Aghia	22	3	6,000
Derreli	14	10	7,000
Total	453	173	351,000

Larissa, March 21, 1881.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 268.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1881.

I APPROVE your having directed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia to make inquiries with regard to the disposal of the sum of 1,200*l.* which the Aïdos Commission recommended should be given to the plundered Turkish villages, and which Mr. Consul Brophy in his despatch of the 9th ultimo inclosed in your Excellency's No. 225 of the 22nd reports that no portion has yet been distributed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 270.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 232 of the 24th ultimo inclosing one from the British Acting Consul-General at Beyrout, in which he forwards a copy of a letter addressed to him by the two religious chiefs of the Druzes of Mount Lebanon, detailing the grievances of his co-religionists of the Hauran which gave rise to the recent disturbances and soliciting his intervention for a peaceful solution of the question.

I should wish Mr. Dickson to continue to maintain an attitude of reserve in this matter, and I approve the intention you express of giving him directions to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 31, 1881.

PHOTIADES PASHA has just returned from the eastern district of Mirabello, whither he had gone to compel the inhabitants to pay the road and school tax, consisting of the insignificant amount of ½ per cent. of the produce of their land. In my despatches Nos. 9 and 10, dated the 21st February and the 4th March respectively, I had the honour to relate to your Lordship the opposition that had been made to the payment of that impost, and the disrepute into which the Government had fallen when it was found that no steps were taken to enforce it. As I stated in Inclosure 2 of my despatch No. 14 of the 28th instant, Photiades Pasha went down to Candia accompanied by Edhem Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, and two battalions of troops. After a few days' delay at Candia, his Excellency and Edhem Pasha went by sea to a little port two hours distant from Neapolis, the capital of Mirabello, and there leaving on board 1,000 soldiers whom he had brought with him, he proceeded to Neapolis. The Pasha spoke harshly to the people who had come out to meet him, and told them that unless they instantly consented to pay the impost demanded of them he should land the troops and put the district under martial law. Finding his Excellency in earnest the recusants pulled down their colours, showing the greatest alacrity in bringing in their contributions, while the surrounding districts which had caught the rebellious spirit of Mirabello displayed an equal readiness to conform to the law. The result of the Vali's visit had thus been to reduce that end of the island to submission. Questioned as to their reasons for not paying, the inhabitants declared that they had been informed that the proceeds of the tax were to be applied to making roads in other parts of the country, from which they would derive no benefit.

It is plain that some intriguing spirits had been undermining the authority of the Government, and if they succeeded in their object the Government had itself to blame for not at once opposing a resolute front to their machination. Photiades Pasha seems to have been aware that he had allowed matters to go too far, but awoke in time to assert the authority of the law. Though wanting in sustained energy, the sequel proves him to be capable of acts of vigour, of which indeed he has given proofs on former occasions. His Excellency also showed wisdom in substituting for the vacillating Mutessarif of Candia the Kurd, Essad Bey, who is gradually reducing that and surrounding Kazas to something like order. I have now much more confidence in the ability of the Vali to preserve order in Crete, unless the force of events is too strong for him.

Of the two battalions which his Excellency took with him to Candia he brought back one and a-half, leaving the other half, consisting of 360 men, to reinforce the garrison there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 27.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 14.)

E
(No. 34.)

Scutari, March 24, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 10 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by Captain Sale, in his Report No. 17 of the 28th ultimo, that some understanding should be arrived at concerning the submission of the two interested parties to the decisions of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission before that Commission meets again in the middle of May next.

I, however, do not believe that the line of "the Dulcigno arrangement," north of Lake Scutari, would be seriously resisted by the Christian tribes of North Albania, if the Turkish Government could be induced to publish its acceptance of it. Still, I see no objection to the modifications suggested by Captain Sale, provided the Russian and Austrian Governments would consent to take the lead in persuading Prince Nicholas to agree to them.

The Montenegrin Government is perfectly aware of the attitude assumed by the Russian Government, as is shown by Mr. Plunkett's despatch of the 10th September last (see "Turkey No. 2, 1881," No. 50), when the Porte secured the retention of Dinoshi, and it would therefore be imposing too heavy a charge on the British Representative in the Principality to cause him to be the first to reopen with the Prince the question of the boundary in the Podgoritza Plain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 28.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 14.)

E
(No. 35. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, March 26, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 24th instant, I have ascertained from a source which cannot be doubted that Prince Nicholas has been advised by Russia to take no steps to hasten the demarkation of the Turkish frontiers of the Principality, as it may be convenient to Montenegro to have the means of bringing forward an unsettled claim against the Ottoman Government, should the Greek question degenerate into hostilities in Epirus and Thessaly.

Prince Nicholas himself, after making a show of being anxious to obtain immediate possession of the village of St. George, on the right bank of the River Boyana, which the majority of the Boundary Commission has awarded to Montenegro, admitted to me that he had issued the strictest orders for the maintenance by his people of friendly intercourse with the North Albanians, and that his interests are not suffering through the continued uncertainty of the limits of his southern borders.

I expressed satisfaction, although probably on different grounds, with the Prince's present peaceable orders, and said that I felt convinced that as soon as the Porte came to an understanding with Greece it would be careful to carry out its obligations in this direction also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 29.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 40.)

Scutari, March 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE recently had shown to me, in a confidential manner, the copies of the two petitions to the Sultan which purported to come from the two great sections—North and South—of Albania, and which were allowed to fall at the beginning of the year, in an apparently unintentional manner, into the possession of some of the Embassies at Constantinople.

One of these petitions bears the names of the districts of Ipek, Jacova, Prishtina, Prisrend, Kalkandelen, Uscup, and Upper Dibra, &c.; and the other, those of Tirana, Croyia, Cavayia, Pekini, Elbassan, Berat, Argyrocastro, Janina, and Lower Dibra, &c.

These geographical separations, from their regularity, give anything but a local stamp of truth to the petitions.

The first document complains, in respectful but bitter terms, that the Porte has not permitted the Sultan to accord the repeatedly expressed wish of the signatories for the blending of all the districts of Albania into one united province under a single Vali; the second protests against the rumours which have prevailed that the Albanians desire to be united under one Governor-General.

These divergent wishes once expressed, the remaining particulars of the petitions become interchangeable. Both North and South Albanians are represented as perfectly satisfied with their actual state, and to pray that no reforms or changes may be introduced.

I admit that the perusal of these documents has confirmed me in sharing the suspicion of all Albanians that the Porte is still at the bottom of the so-called League, for the petitions bear the appearance of having been drawn up by the same pen, and the fear of reforms, I think, prevails more at Constantinople than in Albania.

The Porte has perhaps calculated that by allowing parts of Albania, which are not under the immediate supervision of foreign Agents, to be credited as being in a condition of anarchy, and by giving currency to the impression that the natives are only agreed as to their conservatism towards the Sultan and the maintenance of the old state of things, the European Powers will finally decide to permit the Ottoman Government to follow its own course (refusal to introduce reforms) after restoring order.

At all events, I am certain that the present position of affairs in the Vilayet of Kossovo and Dibra could be immediately controlled by a very slight show of firmness on the part of the Turkish authorities, and that whatever there is of genuine in the Albanian movement is not, as the petitions to the Sultan allege, opposed to the introduction of reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 30.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 41.)

Scutari, March 30, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 33 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a further Report addressed this day by me to Mr. Goschen on the subject of the petition to the Porte from the inhabitants of Scutari, said to have been tampered with by some of the native officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Scutari, March 30, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the complaint of the Christians to the Vali concerning the tampered petition has been supported by a similar complaint from a majority of the Mahommedan Notables of Scutari, and who have called upon Hadji Osman Pasha to either cause the petition to be returned from Constantinople, or to furnish them with the names of the persons who ventured upon altering the document, as they, equally with the Christians, fear their wishes concerning the administration of this province have been misrepresented.

I believe the Pasha has promised to write for the petition to be sent back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 31.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)*
(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March 30, 1881.*

DURING the last Session of the Bulgarian Chamber a Law was passed for the improvement of the agricultural labourers.

This Law, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, was founded on a Report drawn up by a Commission which had been appointed in consequence of the demands made by the Turkish proprietors last year to enter into possession of their property. It provides for the manner in which the cultivators of the different classes of landed property are to become proprietors of the land which they have cultivated, and lays down that a special Mixed Commission shall determine the nature and proportion of the indemnity to be given to the Turkish proprietor.

M. Zancoff, the late President of the Council, has been appointed the President of this Commission, which is now sitting at Kustendil.

The Turkish proprietors have protested against this Law, which, they argue, is contrary to the provisions of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, and have addressed a petition to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Sophia, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

Nihad Pasha has also addressed a Memorandum to the Agents of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, inclosing a petition and a telegram which he has received from the Mussulmans of Kustendil, protesting against the Law, and against the irregular proceedings of the Commission, upon which they assert that they are not represented.

I have the honour to inclose copies of these documents.

The Commission is, I understand, composed of five members, only one of whom is a Turk, and all the members were appointed by the Government without any choice having been left to the Turkish proprietors to select their Representatives.

One of my colleagues has called the attention of General Ehrnrooth to this subject, and his Excellency has stated that he would cause an inquiry to be made into the manner in which the Commission was working, with a view to redress any just grievances on the part of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Loi sur l'Amélioration de la Condition des Cultivateurs des Terres seigneuriales et des Fermes.

ARTICLE 1er. Les terres seigneuriales sont celles que les villageois exploitent en donnant aux propriétaires une redevance en nature, en argent, ou en autres objets.

Remarque. Les terres seigneuriales sont de deux sortes:

A. Celles que le propriétaire donne à cultiver tantôt à l'un, tantôt à l'autre.

B. Celles que le propriétaire ne peut pas retirer à l'un pour les donner à un autre, et qui sont connu sous le nom de "Batchina" (héréditaires ou transmissible de père au fils).

Art. 2. Les terres des fermes ("tchilliks") sont celles qui sont possédées en vertu des documents conformes à la Loi Agraire et ses Appendices ("Arazi Kanoum namessi ve zaili").

Remarque. Les fermes sont de trois espèces:

i. Celles qui sont cultivées par les ouvriers ("momtchi").

ii. Celles qui sont cultivées par la population agricole qui y est installée.

iii. Celles qui sont cultivées par des métayers ("ortakchi") qui partagent avec le propriétaire les produits d'après la qualité des terres.

Art. 3. Chaque habitant devient propriétaire des terres qu'il a cultivé et cultive et de celles qu'il avait le droit d'exploiter.

Art. 4. Chaque habitant qui a exploité pendant dix années consécutives les mêmes terres de ferme en devient propriétaire.

Art. 5. Chaque habitant qui a cultivé dans une ferme tantôt une terre tantôt l'autre par année ne peut profiter de l'Article 4 de cette Loi, mais s'il a cultivé par année soit

une terre soit l'autre, il acquiert le droit de devenir propriétaire d'une quantité de terre nécessaire pour nourrir sa famille.

Art. 6. Toutes les familles demeurant dans les fermes deviennent propriétaires des maisons qu'elles ont habitées pendant dix ans au moins et de leurs dépendances.

Art. 7. Une Commission Spéciale Mixte fixera définitivement la nature et la proportion de l'indemnité pour les terres mentionnées dans les Articles 3, 4, 5, de la présente Loi.

Art. 8. L'indemnité dont il est question dans l'Article précédent est payée par la Caisse Générale aussitôt que le montant en sera déterminé, et une Loi spéciale le déterminera.

Art. 9. Les pâturages ("méra") et les marais faisant partie des fermes (Articles 4, 5, 6) demeurent en toute propriété à ceux qui ont demeuré dans ces fermes.

Art. 10. Après que ceux qui ont travaillé à l'exploration de la ferme ont reçu les terres qui doivent leur être attribués, le reste des terres est maintenu au propriétaire de la ferme.

Art. 11. Les instructions relatives à l'application de la présente Loi seront données par les Ministres de la Justice, de l'Intérieur, et des Finances.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Petition from Turkish Proprietors.

(Traduction.)

A M. l'Agent Diplomatique et Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Sophia.

Monsieur,

NOUS, propriétaires et habitant à Kustendil (Bulgarie) prenons la liberté de solliciter votre bienveillance de prendre en considération les accusations que nous portons contre l'autorité Bulgare, comme nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de vous les faire connaître au sujet de nos propriétés ("tchitliks"). Par voie des journaux nous avons déjà énergiquement protesté contre une Loi que la Chambre Bulgare a voulu créer contrairement à ce que le Traité de Berlin a, dans son Article XII, stipulé et déclaré formellement que tout sujet, Musulman ou non, peut donner ses propriétés en location dans la Bulgarie.

Et nous, ayant donné nos propriétés à location dans ce pays, aux mêmes conditions que du temps des Turcs, il y a trois ans que nous réclamons ce qui nous est dû. Et les autorités Bulgares, loin d'embrasser notre si juste cause, nous ont trompé de toutes les façons jusqu'à ce jour. Dans cet intervalle de temps elles ont cherché les moyens par des machinations impossibles à faire dire aux locataires de nos propriétés de ne nous point connaître pour les maîtres de nos biens, ayant cependant en main nos documents officiels. Comptant sur les mensonges de nos locataires, la Chambre Bulgare a, dans ses dernières séances, établi une Loi qui dit, qu'outre que ces locataires peuvent se dispenser de nous payer la location de trois ans déjà révolus, le Gouvernement s'emparera par force de ces propriétés à des prix terriblement réduits, à environ 90 pour cent de la valeur réelle. De plus, selon ce qui se fait entendre, le Gouvernement rendra ces propriétés aux locataires, lesquels seront libres d'en disposer à leur gré.

Pour l'exécution de cette Loi le Gouvernement a employé une Commission, sous la présidence de M. Zancoff, sans nous donner le moindre avertissement. Cette Commission nous prend nos documents et poursuit son affaire sans nous rendre aucun compte. Alors, nous et nos enfants, voulant réclamer ce qui nous était si justement dû, sommes maintenant réduits à prendre nos propres documents. Nous trouvant nus et sans aucun moyen de nous nourrir, ou de nous enfuir, ayant perdu toute espérance, nous sollicitons votre clémence en vous faisant connaître notre triste état, duquel vous pourrez nous tirer, grâce à la bienfaisante protection dont vous, fidèle Représentant de la libérale Angleterre, avez toujours couvert non seulement les sujets Anglais, mais encore tout ceux qui, faisant partie de l'humanité, ont besoin de votre secours.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 31.

Memorandum.

LES Musulmans, propriétaires des terres et des fermes dans le district du Kustendil, ont adressé au Commissaire Impérial Ottoman une pétition et un télégramme collectifs, pour protester d'une part, contre la Loi votée par la Chambre qu'ils disent être contraire au

Traité de Berlin garantissant aux Musulmans la jouissance de leurs immeubles; et d'autre part, contre l'agissement irrégulier de la nouvelle Commission présidée par M. Zancoff, qui, au mépris des documents Turcs et Bulgares, donne au villageois le droit de travailler toutes les terres et de profiter de leurs revenus sans être obligés de reconnaître les propriétaires munis des titres légaux ou qui ont été déjà reconnus comme tels par le Gouvernement Bulgare. Les requérants se plaignent que la Commission, au sein de laquelle, contrairement à la Loi, ne siége aucun représentant des propriétaires intéressés, annihile les ventes de ces terres faites précédemment, les oblige d'en restituer le prix aux acheteurs, aussi bien que les revenus qu'ils avaient déjà reçus des locataires, et les renvoie à faire valoir leurs prétentions auprès le Gouvernement Bulgare.

Les requérants adressent de plus à Nihad Pacha la demande formelle de communiquer aux Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et au Ministre les pièces concernant leurs réclamations, ci-annexées en copie.

Sophia, le 4 Avril, 1881.

Inclosure 4 in No. 31.

Petition from the Mussulmans of Kustendil.

(Traduction.)

NOUS avons adressé plusieurs requêtes au Gouvernement Princier le priant de nous faire entrer en possession de nos biens immeubles et de nos terres conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin et des Articles 67 et 68 de la Constitution Bulgare; mais on a traîné l'affaire jusqu'à présent par des promesses que nos réclamations seraient examinées d'un jour à l'autre et que pour les fermes, une Commission spéciale serait envoyée.

Une Commission sous la présidence de M. Zancoff vient en dernier lieu d'arriver de Sophia, mais nous ignorons les instructions et les ordres d'après lesquels les affaires seraient réglées et M. Zancoff, de son côté, ne nous a fait aucune communication. Dans l'entretien que nous avons eu avec lui, il nous a dit seulement que les intérêts des deux parties, c'est à dire, des propriétaires et des locataires seront sauvegardés, mais qu'il était obligé de faire des vérifications, ce qui durerait quelques jours.

On voit en effet que, conformément à son dire, il fait des vérifications depuis deux ou trois jours en prenant les titres de propriété de quelques-uns des ayants-droit. Cependant aucun de nous ne se trouvant présent à la Commission, nous ne savons pas en quoi consistent ces vérifications.

Ainsi que votre Excellence le sait, de telles vérifications sur les fermes que nous possédons par voie de l'héritage séculaire, ont été faites jusqu'à présent une ou deux fois déjà, sans que personne de nous ait été consulté. Les locataires ont avancé des assertions sans fondement mais à leur propre profit pour détruire nos droits légitimes, et les rapports dressés par les fonctionnaires chargés de cette vérification ont été publiés par les journaux.

Nous avons faits des grands frais pour réfuter par voie de la presse ces assertions inadmissibles et contraires à la vérité. La Loi que la Chambre avait votée à cet effet n'étant autre que l'abolition de nos droits, ce qui est contraire au Traité et à la justice, nous avons adressé à votre Excellence une requête collective vous exposant l'inadmissibilité de cette Loi, et nous avons expédié à Son Altesse le Prince un télégramme dans ce même sens.

Ignorant les vérifications que la Commission actuelle vient d'entreprendre, nous prions votre Excellence d'informer qui de droit que dans le cas où une décision préjudiciable à nos droits serait prise, nous ne pouvons pas admettre cette décision.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 31.

Telegram addressed to Nihad Pasha by the Mussulmans of Kustendil.

Excellence, *Le 30 Mars*, 1881.

VOUS savez qu'il y a ici des villageois qui travaillent exclusivement des terres Turques et des autres qui possèdent des propres terres, mais qui travaillent aussi les terres appartenant aux Turcs et reconnues par les villageois eux-mêmes comme telles. Commission venue dernièrement ici vient de dire sans exception à tous ces villageois qu'ils ont le droit de travailler toutes les terres qu'ils travaillaient pendant le temps Turcs et en

profiter les revenus sans être obligés reconnaître les propriétaires Turcs, ni même ceux reconnus déjà comme tels par le Gouvernement Bulgare; aussi les émigrants qui travaillent les terres Turques ne doivent reconnaître les propriétaires Turcs, qui peuvent s'adresser au Gouvernement Bulgare s'ils ont quelques prétentions; aussi, si dans un village tout entier Bulgare, il n'y aura que 10 deunumes de terrain appartenant aux Turcs, villageois n'en feront exception, ni même si une veuve Turque ne possède que deux pouces de terrain dans un village Bulgare, les villageois n'en feront aussi exception. Commission a annoncé le même aux propriétaires Turcs, qui viennent de vendre avant deux années leurs propriétés, à en retourner le prix aux acheteurs et laisser les terres aux villageois qui les travaillaient au temps des Turcs. Aussi elle a obligé quelques propriétaires, qui ont déjà touché quelques revenus de leurs propriétés, de retourner ces revenus aux villageois et aux locataires de ces propriétés. Commission ne reconnaissant les documents Turcs elle ne reconnaît non plus documents Bulgares. Comme Commission ne travaille conformément au droit international et à la Constitution Bulgare, et comme cause de ces mesures de Commission nous allons nous perdre en général, les Soussignés, propriétaires Turcs, prenons la liberté nous adresser à votre Excellence et vous prier agréer faire tout votre possible pour nous sauver et nous rendre justice. Agréez communiquer présente dépêche aux Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et au Ministère et en faire observations nécessaires.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 32.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 266.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a telegram which has been addressed to me by some Turkish land-owners at Kustendil requesting my assistance in preventing the forced sale, by the Bulgarian authorities to the labourers now cultivating them, of certain lands which the petitioners assert to be their property.

I have forwarded a copy of this petition to Mr. Lascelles.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Petition of Land-owners of Kustendil as to Retention of their Lands by Bulgarian Authorities.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 2, 1881.

WE have been requesting the authorities for the last three years to allow us, in accordance with the XIIth Article of the Berlin Treaty, to enter into possession of our farms and properties still remaining in the hands of the Bulgarian authorities. Till now we have met with no result, but lately a Commission, under the presidency of M. Zancoff, has arrived here, and has informed us that, in accordance with a law promulgated by the Chamber this year, permission will not be given us to enter into possession of, or to sell, or to let our lands; and that our lands, which up to this time have been sold or let with the consent of the two Contracting Parties, are to be given back, and we perceive that, without consulting our wishes, they will be given to the labourers and workmen who have been employed in cultivating them, at a price fixed by the authorities. Moreover, the Commission has insisted that the title-deeds in our possession should be given up to the Commission to be examined; and, furthermore, the members of the Commission in person proceeded to our farms situated in the villages of Chiflik, Jernolik, and Noténé, and examined the deeds of the possessions and several of their fields, and certified that they were being cultivated by labourers; and afterwards passing over the rights of the owners, the President of the Commission, M. Zancoff, proclaimed that the cultivators of the fields should remain in free possession of our lands, not even paying rent; and he explained also that our lands, which had been cultivated by Christians coming from Ottoman dominions three years ago, should henceforth remain in their possession, and that he did not recognize the fact of our lands having been either let or sold.

Wherefore, we humbly and sincerely beg your Excellency to cause steps to be taken that the Bulgarian Government should be informed that an end should be put to these

unjust and tyrannical acts, and that we should be permitted to enjoy the possession of our lands, and that the Government should endeavour to obtain for us the hire of our lands, to which we are entitled, and that they should not allow our lands and farms to be sold at a price fixed by a Chamber so hostile to us.

(Signed) EDRIN,
Representative of Land-holders at Kustendil.

No. 33.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 277.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Captain Jones relative to the indemnity to certain villages recommended by the Aïdos Commission, but which the Permanent Committee now refuse to grant.

Notwithstanding the specious argument put forward by the Permanent Committee, it seems deplorable that a difficulty should now be raised in making amends for events where such deep blame rested on the Eastern Roumelian authorities, and it appears to me to be a matter of regret that the authorities of the province should once more bring these occurrences into notice by their refusal to act on the recommendations made.

Possibly your Lordship may think that Captain Jones should be directed to hold strong language to the Government of the province, showing the unwisdom of the course they are pursuing, and its baneful effect as regards the sympathy of England, the public opinion of which it is desirable for them to secure.

After the steps which were taken to bring about the appointment of the Aïdos Commission, and the very slender results obtained by it, it seems very undesirable that a portion even of the recommendations made should remain a dead letter.

Should Mr. Stephen be still in London, he would no doubt be able to furnish your Lordship with further particulars as to the villages to which allusion is made by Captain Jones, and as to the value of the objections raised by the Eastern Roumelian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Philippopoli, March 29, 1881.*

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Excellency's despatch of the 24th instant, I inquired of Aleko Pasha the reason of the delay in distributing among certain Turkish villages in the district of Anchialo the sum of £ T. 1,200 recommended for that purpose by the Aïdos Commission.

His Excellency, after some consultation with his Secretary, stated in explanation that the Aïdos Commission terminated its labours while he was absent at Constantinople, about August last, and that in the press of other business its suggestions had been overlooked, but that he would at once take steps to have the money in question paid to the sufferers, as soon as the forms required by the Finance Department had been complied with.

I shall not fail to note and report duly to your Excellency any progress made in this direction, and have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Philippopoli, April 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, in accordance with instructions contained in your despatch of the 24th ultimo, of the decision arrived at by the Permanent Committee of this province on the question of the sum of money (£ T. 1,200) recommended by the Aïdos Commission to be distributed among the villagers of Anchialo.

I much regret to be obliged to state that the Permanent Committee has refused to make the necessary order for the payment of this sum, sheltering itself in its refusal under the suggestion contained in the last paragraph of the Report of said Commission :—

"La Commission croit, par conséquent, qu'en indemnisant les Musulmans pour les pertes qu'ils ont subies, le Gouvernement doit prendre en considération la part que ceux-ci ont prise à l'attaque de Bellova."

With more reason, it justifies its refusal by the plea that of the five villages whose inhabitants were more immediately associated with the work of plunder and destruction, four, viz., Tchenque, Golitza, Aspro, and Alchak Desch, now form part of the Principality of Bulgaria, and but one, viz., Erketch, remains in Eastern Roumelia.

Should, however, the Sublime Porte arrange with the Principality as to the quota of the indemnity to be levied from the marauders of the villages above named, the Governor-General thinks that he may in that case induce the Roumelian Government to contribute the proportion which should fall on Erketch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 34.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 5, 1881.*

SINCE writing my despatch No. 8 of the 3rd instant, I have learnt further details respecting the question of the military contracts, which oblige me to modify in some degree the account therein given of the action taken in the matter by the Russian Consulate-General at this place.

The contract proposed by the Roumelian authorities stipulated that, for a certain class of offences committed against person or property by foreign officers during active service, these were to recognize and accept the judgment of the local Tribunals, without in any way claiming the intervention of their respective Consuls.

The proposed formula was submitted to the consideration of the Russian Consul-General, M. Arseniew, who expressed his approval of the same (25th February last). On the 25th of the month following it was accepted and signed by the German (and by four of the Russian) officers, who happened to be at the capital. In the meanwhile, the Military Attaché of the Russian Consulate had returned to Philippopoli from his leave of absence, and, it may be supposed, succeeded in persuading the Consul-General that he would suffer in power and local influence by consenting to allow so important a constituent of the Russian community to be withdrawn from his authority. In any case, he issued, on the 27th ultimo, a Circular to the Russian officers, forbidding them to accept the conditions proposed by the Roumelian Government, and requiring those who had already done so to cancel at once their Agreements, which they have since done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 35.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 20, 9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 20, 1881, 6 P.M.*

TELEGRAPHIC news arrived here this afternoon of a somewhat serious collision having occurred early this morning between Dervish Pasha's army and Albanian rebels, about five miles from Verisofitch. Rebels were defeated and had many killed and wounded.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE LONDON

No. 36.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 21, 10·45 A.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, April 20, 1881, 7 P.M.

ALTHOUGH military authorities here announce that Dervish Pasha entered Prisrend three days ago without opposition, here report is not believed, as recent native news states Albanians were collected in great force determined on resistance.

Here all is quiet.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 37.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 136.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia,† forwarding a copy of a Circular from the Bulgarian Government, in which attention is called to the danger to public security caused by the presence of foreign vagrants in Bulgaria, and a mode of dealing with the matter is suggested which General Ehrnrooth considers would enable the Bulgarian Government to rid the country of dangerous persons, and at the same time maintain the guarantees due to foreigners.

Before replying to the proposal of the Bulgarian Government, I should be glad to learn the view taken of the matter by other Governments, and I have to instruct you to inquire and report to me what is the opinion of the Government to which you are accredited on General Ehrnrooth's proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord,

Salonica, April 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with two inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the mission of Dervish Pasha in North-East Albania.

I have since heard, from a well-informed quarter, that the Albanians of Kalkandelen, Katchanik, Mitrovitza, Pristina, and Geïlan have also quietly submitted to the re-establishment of the Turkish Administration, and are not likely to take any part in the resistance which, it is said, the League of Prisrend is determined to offer to the advance of the Turkish troops in that direction.

Most of these troops, about 15,000 in number, are concentrated at Verisovitz; and will be reinforced by three additional Anatolian battalions of Redifs which are expected to land here to-morrow.

Prizrend is now the centre of interest in the Albanian relations, and Dervish Pasha is evidently making arrangements to direct to the spot a force sufficiently strong to enable him to give a death-blow to the League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* Also to Lord Ampthill (No. 197), Mr. Wyndham (No. 165), Lord Lyons (No. 380), and Sir A. Paget (No. 162).

† No. 4.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Salonica, April 10, 1881.

WITH reference to the two telegrams which I have the honour to address to your Excellency and Earl Granville on the 7th instant, on the subject of Dervish Pasha's mission in North Albania, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translated copy of the Proclamation which the Pasha has addressed to the Albanians.

I also inclose extract from a letter from Uscup of the 8th instant, relative to the Pasha's arrival and proceedings at that place.

Very alarming rumours have been circulated here about the menacing attitude of the Albanians of Prisrend, Debra, Jacova, and Ipek, all more or less pointing to an imminent collision between the insurgents and the Imperial troops which have been concentrated at Verisovitch, but these rumours, so far, have not been confirmed by official or reliable private sources from Uscup.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Proclamation of Dervish Pasha to the Albanians.

(Traduction.)

JE suis venu ici envoyé par Sa Majesté Impériale comme Commandant extraordinaire et Général dans le seul but d'observer vos droits et vos intérêts, de défendre votre gloire et d'empêcher la continuation de certains inconvénients qui depuis quelque temps ont lieu dans vos environs, que l'auguste Gouvernement voit avec un œil de douleur et qui sont produit certainement par les douloureuses excitations et corruptions des étrangers et des malveillants. Toute ma conduite et toutes mes actions auront pour base vos progrès matériels et moraux et d'obtenir votre tranquillité et votre bonheur: choses bien sérieuses, et elles seront d'accord avec les vœux et désirs du Gouvernement. Donc, il est bien urgent, en ce temps délicat dans lequel nous nous trouvons, de mettre fin aux désordres qui règnent depuis quelque temps en Albanie, et surtout maintenant que la question qui occupe le Gouvernement est au point le plus critique. Vous avouerez vous-mêmes après avoir recherché la source de ces choses que les suggestions malveillantes des étrangers en sont la seule cause. C'est pour cela que le Gouvernement fut obligé de décider l'emploi de mesures rigoureuses contre ceux qui, ne pensant point à la situation gênée du Gouvernement, continuent à susciter des désordres. L'exécution de cette décision est confiée par la fatalité à un vieux soldat comme moi, qui a grandi sous les tentes, a passé sa vie dans les guerres, peines, et souffrances.

J'espère que vous ne m'obligerez pas même de penser à la nécessité de recourir des mesures rigoureuses, vers la fin de mes jours, moi, ce soldat et votre père.

Je vous promets au nom de notre auguste Maître Sa Majesté Impériale que dans le cas où, prêtant une oreille d'importance à ses ordres et conseils ainsi qu'à ceux du Gouvernement, vous présenteriez sans retard votre soumission, vous étonnerez et vaincrez les ennemis de notre religion, du Sultan, et du Gouvernment; vouz aurez rendu un service pour lequel seront introduits à juste titre des règlements utiles de toute sorte pourvu qu'ils ne choquent les intérêts du Gouvernement, ceux du pays, et les droits du Sultan. Ce service occasionnera en même temps votre sûreté, votre bonheur, et votre progrès matériel et moral.

Mais dans le cas où, ne voulant pas tirer profit de ces sincères conseils de votre Gouvernement légal (dont vous êtes des sujets) vous montriez contre le Shéri et les lois, des dispositions de désobéissance, quelle que soit votre résistance dans cette voie, attendu que vous aurez préféré la tromperie et la séduction des étrangers et des malveillants, qui sont ennemis de la religion, du Gouvernement, du Sultanet (Etat) et du pays, aux efficaces conseils du Gouvernement, et vous aurez osé ne pas vous soumettre aux sages et splendides ordres et aux volontés de Sa Majéste Impériale notre Maître, le Grand Khalif, vous serez considérés comme révoltés et par conséquence dignes des plus sévères punitions que fixe le Shéri et les lois envers les rebelles.

Vu que l'exécution de toutes ces belles actions concernant cette affaire m'est confiée, vous serez punis de la manière précédente immédiatement et par moi. Vous voyez donc en quoi consiste l'important devoir qui m'est confié.

Acceptez, sans retard, la ligne de conduite que je fixerai de la part du Gouvernement,

faites tout votre possible de ne pas vous en écarter, et ne rendez pas honteux, devant Sa Majesté Impériale, ce soldat votre père.

Commandant Extraordinaire de la Frontière Grecque et des Corps d'Armées y Dépendants,

Avril 1298 (1881). (Signé) DERVISH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Extract from a Letter from Uscup, dated April 8, 1881.

AUJOURD'HUI nous n'avons pas aucune nouvelle de Prizrend, autre que les troupes Impériales sont campées à Verisovitz.

Elles n'ont pas avancées à Prizrend. Il semble qu'elles attendent des nouvelles instructions.

Beaucoup des volontaires Albanais se trouvent à Prizrend et occupent plusieurs passages.

Il est dit qu'Ali Pacha, de Gussinjé, se trouve actuellement à Gussinjé même et pas à Prizrend.

Ce soir, avant le train régulier, un train spécial est arrivé avec deux régiments des troupes ; et après, le train régulier est arrivé avec Dervish Pacha et deux autres régiments.

Arrivé au Conak Dervish Pacha a immédiatement invité les notables Musulmans, Chrétiens, et Israélites. J'étais aussi dans le nombre qui s'est présenté. C'était vers huit heures de nuit.

Dervish Pacha a fait un long discours. Il nous a dit qu'il est chargé par le Sultan de supprimer le mouvement, ajoutant que, s'il y a quelqu'un qui n'obéira pas, il a plein pouvoir de le condamner à mort et le pendre. Qu'il faut que tous soient fidèles au Sultan et qu'il conseille les habitants d'être paisibles, et que le plus grand concord doit exister entres toutes les races.

"Vous devez venir demain," a-t-il dit, "pour entendre la lecture de mon Firman, car je dois partir pour aller tranquilliser le peuple de plus haut."

Il a parlé avec beaucoup d'amertume et de rage même contre les Albanais.

No. 39.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 23, 12·6 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April* 22, 1881, 11·50 A.M.

PRIVATE intelligence received here this morning from Verisofitch states that Dervish Pasha's army is advancing upon Prisrend and expected there to-morrow morning, and that Albanian rebels are retreating in great disorder towards Jacova and Ipek.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 40.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 23, 1·32 A.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 22, 1881, 1 P.M.

I LEARN from an Italian missionary who has just arrived, having left Prisrend on Tuesday, that Dervish Pasha and his troops are still eight hours distant from that place. From 15,000 to 20,000 Albanians, both Mussulmans and Christians, have collected to oppose Pasha's advance, and have answered his summons to surrender by repudiating Sultan's jurisdiction. The numbers of Albanians are hourly increasing, and determination to resist is general, although many admit probability of Pasha's final success. Christians are for the moment being treated on a footing of equality by the Mussulmans.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 41.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 25.)

E
(No. 46. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 12, 1881.

THE Russian Minister informs me confidentially that there is throughout the Principality widespread disaffection which must sooner or later lead to overt acts of rebellion, if the present anti-national policy is persevered in. As a proof of the correctness of his views, he adduces the fact that leading politicians of all parties and deputations from the provinces are, to his intense annoyance, constantly presenting themselves at the Imperial Legation for the purpose of complaining in bitter terms of the proceedings of the Government, and of ascertaining how far they may reckon on the political sympathy and support of Russia in the event of their taking up arms against it.

He assures me, and I have no reason to doubt his sincerity, that he does everyth'ng in his power to discountenance a movement which might imperil the very existence of the Principality as an independent State, and which would moreover prove very embarrassing to his Government at the present juncture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 42.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 25.)

E
(No. 49. Extender.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 14, 1881.

I HAVE ascertained on good authority that the question of raising the status of this Principality to that of a kingdom is the subject of serious discussion amongst Prince Milan's advisers, owing to recent events in Roumania.

M. Garaschanin, the Minister of the Interior, and by far the most influential member of the present Ministry, is stated to urge Prince Milan to take this step without delay. He argues that, coupled with the proposed liberal changes in the Constitution, it would prove exceedingly popular and the most effective means to put an end to the widespread and dangerous disaffection which is manifesting itself throughout the country in consequence of the unpopularity of the concessions on the point of being made to Austria, and of the greatly increased taxation required to meet the annuities on the railway contract.

M. Garaschanin's views are fully shared by M. Pirochanatz, the President of the Council; but M. Mijatovich would seem to advise the postponement of the measure to a later period, when the arrangements with Austria will have been perfected and the railway at least partially constructed. The opinions of the latter appear to find most favour with Prince Milan, who fears giving offence to Austria, and considers that the change of title would necessitate an increase of his civil list the country could ill afford to grant him under present circumstances.

When the great Powers of Europe decided at Berlin to grant their independence to the two Danubian vassal Principalities of Servia and of Roumania, they must have been prepared to acquiesce in the logical consequences of that act, and accordingly to see these independent States assert at the first favourable occasion their newly-acquired rights in the manner most conformable to their national aspirations.

Historically, Servia has the advantage of Roumania in respect to its becoming a kingdom, since it existed as such for many centuries, and even attained the position of an Empire during an eventful though short period of its history, whereas Roumania has no precedent in her history to cite in her favour.

It is therefore but natural that on acquiring independence the first thought of every Servian, on all classes of whom their ancient traditions retain a vivid hold, should have been the restoration of their kingdom after 500 years of foreign subjection. In deference, however, to the alleged susceptibilities of Austria, no step was taken in the matter at the time.

Nevertheless, the proclamation of the sister Principality as a kingdom and the ready acquiescence of the Great Powers in this change have given a renewed impetus to this national aspiration, for the Servian people cannot bring themselves to believe the Great Powers would deny to them the exercise of a sovereign right they have so fully recognized in the case of Roumania.

The Roumanian population in the Austro-Hungarian territories is much more numerous than the Servian, and whilst the former shows increasing symptoms of a desire to be incorporated with the mother country, hardly any signs of a similar desire can be detected amongst the latter, which, although unfriendly to Hungary, is nevertheless loyal to Austria.

Austria ought therefore, in her own interest, to be the last Power to raise any objections to a mere nominal change which, whilst satisfying the national aspirations of Servia, would not be attended with the slightest danger to herself, and would, moreover, greatly assist the Servian Government carrying through measures imposed on them by the Imperial Government, and which are so unpopular that they may otherwise lead to insurrection, thus rendering foreign military intervention unavoidable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 43.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(Slave Trade.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1881.*

LONGWORTH telegraphs:—

"Circassian female slave escaped to Consulate; cause, ill-treatment. Owner claims her through Governor. Slave passionately implores not to be returned. Should I give her up to the authorities for restoration?"

Am I right in presuming that Vice-Consul cannot keep her? It is thus that I read existing Treaties and precedents. See also action taken as regards slave at Konieh reported in Mr. St. John's No. 15, Slave Trade, of the 15th December of last year.

I telegraph to make quite sure that I may not take a step contrary to the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

Direct instructions from your Lordship to Vice-Consul would save time.

No. 44.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1881.*

PRIME Minister stated to-day that Dervish Pasha had entered Prisrend.

No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 25, 1881.*

OFFICIAL telegram reached here yesterday evening that Dervish Pasha has occupied Prisrend with his troops, and that Albanian population [? received him] with every mark of submission.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 46.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 167.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1881.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia,† forwarding representations which have been made to him on behalf of certain Mussulman proprieters against the provisions of a new law passed by the Bulgarian Chamber, and the proceedings of a Commission at Kustendil acting under that law, which

* Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 312), Lord Lyons (No. (403), Mr. Macdonell (No. 172), Sir H. Elliot (No. 145), and Lord Ampthill (No. 210). In the draft to Mr. Goschen, the last phrase should read: "and I have to request that you will communicate to the Porte the instructions I have sent to Mr. Lascelles."

† No. 31. ‡ No. 47.

seems to be intended in certain cases to give proprietary rights to the occupants and cultivators of lands on payment to the lords of the soil of compensation to be fixed by the Commission.

I inclose a copy of the instruction which I have addressed to Mr. Lascelles directing him to represent to the Bulgarian Government that it is but right that the landlords whose claims are to be dealt with should be properly represented on the Commission;* and I have to request that you will communicate these papers to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 47.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

E
(No. 25.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1881.*

IN my despatch No. 22 of the 8th instant I instructed you to furnish a Report with regard to the proceedings of a Commission at Kustendil which had been represented to me as having contested the right of Mussulman proprietors to their lands.

Since the date of that despatch I have received from you (No. 25 of the 30th March) a copy of the Law recently passed by the Bulgarian Chamber under which the Commission at Kustendil is acting; a petition against the provisions of the Law and the proceedings of the Commission, addressed to you by some proprietors in the district; and a Memorandum on the subject from the Turkish Commissioner at Sophia, accompanied by a petition and a telegram to him from the Mussulman proprietors.

Whatever may be the merits of this new Law, which appears to be intended in certain cases to give proprietary rights to the occupants and cultivators of lands, on payment to the lords of the soil of compensation to be fixed by the Commission, it is only right that the landlords, whose claims are to be dealt with, should be properly represented on the Commission, and I have to direct you to make representations to that effect to the Bulgarian Government, in concert with such of your foreign colleagues as may have received similar instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April 15, 1881.*

THE "Selimich," a large Government transport, arrived here this afternoon from Moudania, I believe, and landed four battalions of Anatolian Redifs, 200 horses, and a large quantity of small ammunition. Two of these battalions were dispatched this evening by special train to Verisovitz; one will be sent to Caraferia (Veria) and one to Cassandra.

The "Selimich" will leave to-morrow for Mersina, to embark five battalions of Redifs for Volo.

The dispatch-boat "Ismail," which brought Dervish Pasha here, leaves this evening for Volo with a large quantity of flour and biscuits for the troops in Thessaly.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translated copy of a letter dated the 13th instant, from my private agent at Verisovitz, giving some interesting information respecting the proceedings of Dervish Pasha against the Albanian League. I have no doubt that we shall soon hear of the collapse of this movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* No. 47.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Letter addressed to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.) *Verisovitz (Railway Station), April* 13, 1881.

AS you know, Dervish Pasha is here with 15,000 men and twelve mountain-guns.

The camp is situated about half-an-hour's distance from the railway station, on the slopes of a low mountain. The sufferings of the poor soldiers on account of the inclemency of the weather are beyond description.

The poor men are literally sleeping in the mud. It has been raining for the last five days, and all the mountains are covered with snow; still we can hear the men singing and laughing!

Dervish Pasha, who could if he chose stop in a good room in any of the first-rate hans about the station, is not better off than the common soldiers, and the only difference between his tent and theirs is that he sleeps on a wooden bed! How the old man resists is a wonder.

Immediately on his arrival here strange rumours reached him to the effect that the Albanians, who had deeply felt the *coup de main* of Uscup, were marching on Katchanik, in order to destroy the railway and hold the whole country.

Dervish found out that this rumour was quite true, and he also got information that the Albanians intended to surround him! 4,000 men were marching on Katchanik, taking the right of the railway, and 3,000 were to cross the railway at Liplian, join a corps from Pristina, and march down on the left of the line to join the others in Katchanik, literally surrounding Dervish's camp.

The Pasha acted like lightning. He ordered Hadji Osman Pasha to start off immediately for Katchanik, with two battalions and two guns, with instructions to fire on and attack the Albanians if the latter did not disperse after the very first summons.

Hadji Osman Pasha soon got to Katchanik, and summoned the Albanians to retire quietly to their homes. They refused, saying they could not do so unless ordered by their Chief. The Pasha thereupon placed his guns, loaded them, and deployed his troops, and once more summoned the Albanians to disperse or he would open fire over them. This had the desired effect, for all at once the whole mass of them fled in the greatest confusion, Osman Pasha following them, ready to fire in case of the slightest resistance, and in a very short time there were no armed Albanians in Katchanik.

The same thing happened with the band coming down from Pristina. Now all the Albanians, numbering some 7,000 men, are at a place a little below Istimia, on the road to Prisrend. Dervish Pasha does not yet know what their intentions are.

The quick decision and energy displayed by Dervish Pasha on this occasion has had a wonderful and salutary effect on the whole country round about. The Chiefs of the League from Novi-Bazar, Mitrovitza, Pristina, Kalkandalen, &c., have all come in, and they are all now seeking "aman" (pardon). Dervish Pasha is very severe with them, particularly as Prisrend and Djacova still refuse to surrender, and have not as yet sent any one to him.

His Excellency told the Chiefs gathered here that he is determined to crush all those who dare resist him; that he will burn their villages and hang all those armed against him, without referring to Constantinople; that he has full powers, and will act accordingly.

He intends, if Prisrend and Djacova still hold out, to march on the two places with his whole force.

No. 49.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 51.)

Salonica, April 18, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from Mr. Solomon Juda, a British subject established at Salonica, relative to the prevalence of brigandage in the nahié of Niansta, in district of Caraferia (Veria), in Macedonia.

As Mr. Juda has a large interest in a cotton-mill at Niansta, I have communicated with the Military Governor of Salonica on the subject of his letter.

His Excellency told me that a company of regular troops has already been sent from

Caraferia to Niansta, and another will proceed there to-morrow from the garrison at this place.

Selami Pasha, General of Division, who is about to assume the command of the troops in Caraferia, also assured me, in answer to my representations, that he would take further measures for the protection of the inhabitants of Niansta.

With the exception of the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, which continue to be free from brigandage, the rest of Macedonia, including the Vilayet of Monastir, is lamentably disturbed by this crying evil. Just four days before Mr. Suter was captured a Turkish land-owner of Salonica, Mishti Agha Zadé Amish Agha, while on a visit to his estate at Levene, in the district of Cassandra, and about 7 hours distant from Salonica, was attacked and carried off by a band of brigands. His farm-steward and a servant, both Turks, who tried to defend him, were killed, and the brigands now demand £T. 6,000 for his ransom.

About a fortnight ago a military detachment came up with Nicko and his band, who were concealed in a forest in the district of Caraferia. A rather serious collision ensued; Nicko, however, effected his escape, but not before two of his men and two of the soldiers had been killed, and one of the latter seriously wounded.

Last week intelligence was received here from Monastir that one of the captives (a Jew) who were carried off by the brigand Chief, Davelli, as reported in my despatch No. 42 of the 26th ultimo, has been killed, as his ransom was not forthcoming.

Some three weeks ago six Christian inhabitants, including a priest, Papa Cotcho (Constantine), of the village of Seltcha, in district of Anassilitza, in Vilayet of Monastir, were all killed in the vicinity of the Albanian village of Dedeler, in the same district. It is strongly suspected that this massacre was perpetrated by some of the inhabitants of the last-named village.

The Albanian robber chief, Yonouz Ghega, whose escape with thirty-one convicts from the prisons of Salonica I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 34 of the 7th ultimo, has formed a band and resumed his operations in the district of Yenidjeh-Vardar, contiguous to that of Salonica.

I should not omit to add that Hadji Ibrahim Agha's son, who was carried off from Covanza in September last (*vide* my Report No. 104 of the 21st September, 1880) by the brigand Chief, Panayotti Caloyero, has not been released yet. The poor father, who was also captured, but subsequently released for the purpose of raising the ransom-money, has already remitted £T. 1,200 to the brigands, who, however, refuse to relinquish their captive, and threaten to kill him unless they get the full amount of £T. 3,000.

Thessaly also, although full of troops, continues to suffer from brigandage.

Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth writes as follows, under date the 6th instant:—

"When the brigands failed to carry off Mr. Christo-Ghiorghiadi they captured a Turk, a Jew, and a Christian. The ransom for the poor Jew was partly collected at Larissa and Volo, but the brigands killed him and the Turk before all the money could be raised. Now, some five days ago, part of this band were surprised by villagers and soldiers near Velestino, where they went to steal goats; five of them were killed and their heads taken to Volo. There was a Christian hostage in the hands of the brigands when attacked, whom they killed out of revenge while the fight lasted. His body was taken to Milies and interred there by his relatives."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above I was informed by my Hellenic colleague that, in a recent letter from the Hellenic Consul at Serres, it is stated that brigandage has again broken out in that sandjak; and that a caravan, on the way from Nevrocop to Serres, was attacked on the 9th instant by highwaymen, and plundered of 1,000*l*.

J. E. B.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Mr. Juda to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 17 *Avril,* 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

JE ne dois rester plus si indifférent sur une question qui touche tout directement mes intérêts les plus vitaux.

C'est sur le brigandage qui a commencé déjà à dévaster les alentours de Niausta et qui menace la ville même.

[500]